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tion of them by the German Emperor in 1896," falls somewhat short of the recognition due to the existence of the Christian Social Union. There is no reference, again, to the activity of Fabian Socialism, both in theory and practice, since it ceased to be a "debating club of mixed Socialism . . . without having any recognized end beyond the discussion" (p. 88); nor again to recent progress in Municipal Socialism. None of these things may be as conspicuous as the proceedings of militant socialists, but the omission of them from consideration constitutes an important limitation to the author's conception of "Contemporary Socialism." We cannot help thinking that some attention might have been given to the evolution of Socialism in the chair which is quite as remarkable and as significant as that of Socialism in the street. Altogether, a student of socialism could scarcely agree that "its present position in 1900 is explained in the new chapter"; but presumably Mr. Rae has more in mind the needs of the general reader, who will find much to interest him in the author's account of the recent history of the Socialist Movement, not only on the continent, but in the Australian colonies. Unfortunately, the book appeared before the "capitulation" of Bernstein at the Congress of Lübeck.

SIDNEY BALL.

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POVERTY: A STUDY OF TOWN LIFE. By B. Seebohm Rowntree.  
London: Macmillan & Co., Ltd., 1901.

Mr. Charles Booth's book on "Life and Labour of the People in London" has inspired Mr. Rowntree to undertake a similar investigation into the conditions of life in the City of York. The comparative smallness of the city—the population is about 78,000—has enabled Mr. Rowntree to make a more particular and detailed investigation than was possible for Mr. Booth. The work has evidently been undertaken with the greatest care and the results are presented with admirable clearness. It is a model book. The facts are as depressing as Mr. Booth's. Indeed one of the most striking and interesting results is that the proportionate amount of poverty is nearly the same in York as in London. In York over 43 per cent. of the wage earning classes or about 28 per cent. of the total inhabitants of the city were found to be living in poverty. To determine whether a family is living

in poverty or not Mr. Rowntree considers the minimum necessary expenditure for the maintenance of physical health. He chooses the cheapest rations specified by the Local Government Board for the guidance of Boards of Guardians and on this basis calculates that on the average the weekly cost of such a dietary is 3s. 3d. for a man, 2s. 9d. for a woman, and 2s. 3d. for a child, in order to afford the amount of protein which medical authorities state is requisite. Perhaps further scientific investigation may modify some of the views we hold with reference to measuring the necessary amounts of food by reference to protein alone, but these calculations afford the best measure at present available to us. On this basis he calculates the minimum necessary for clothing, fuel and other sundries at £4 11d. per week for a family of five. He then determines which families had their total earnings insufficient to obtain the minimum necessities for the maintenance of merely physical efficiency and calls the poverty experienced by such families "primary poverty." Nearly ten per cent. of the population of York are living in primary poverty. Secondary poverty is that experienced by families whose total earnings would be sufficient for the maintenance of merely physical efficiency were it not that some portion of it is absorbed by other expenditure either careful or wasteful. Nearly 18 per cent. of the population of York are living in secondary poverty. But Mr. Rowntree does much more than merely collect these statistics and make these calculations. He presents us with a very full picture of the different classes of wage earners in the City of York. He describes the conditions of housing, gives specimen family budgets, considers the relation of poverty to health and gives some account of the public houses, schools, trade unions, friendly societies and other institutions in the city. The result is that we have a more complete account of the condition of the wage earning classes in a city than has ever been given before. Would that more public-spirited persons like Mr. Rowntree follow in the footsteps of Mr. Charles Booth.

C. P. SANGER.

LONDON.